

**INVENTOR:** INCH, et al.  
**Serial No.** 10/821,489

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### REMARKS

The Applicant has amended the claims of the instant application to more specifically define the instant invention over the prior art cited by the Examiner. Specifically, the Applicant has amended the independent claims to clarify that the lip of the field joint is formed before the two sink portions are joined together via the inventive field joint. Such an arrangement is neither disclosed nor taught by the prior art cited by the examiner. The prior art all disclose metal lock joints in which two pieces of metal are first placed together with one edge portion extending beyond the other, then the extended edge portion is folded over the other edge portion. These prior art lock joints are commonly used in the manufacture of automobile parts such as doors, hoods, etc., in which two pieces of metal are joined together in the factory. Alternatively, the instant invention discloses a joint in which the two items to be joined may be manufactured in the factory and later joined together in the field (away from the factory) without necessitating any special equipment to accomplish any folding in the field.

The Applicant believes all claims in the instant application now to be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejections/objections be withdrawn.

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Reconsideration of the application as amended respectfully is requested. The foregoing amendment and remarks are believed to be responsive to every matter raised in the office action. If, however, some matter has been overlooked, an opportunity to correct the oversight would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



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